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Mr. Bunau-Varilla's Part in the Completion of the Panama Canal.

None of the proprietors is violated. In THE SUN's opinion, by printing the somewhat personal letter in which Mr. PHILIPPE BUNAU-VARILLA describes his emotions on the day when he passed from ocean to ocean on a seagoing vessel through the Panama Canal.

The sentiment of patriotic devotion to the vindication of the project of the French engineers, even when carried to completion by another nation, has governed from beginning to end Mr. BUNAU-VARILLA's persistently effective relation to this enterprise. It has been the mainspring of his activities ever since he persuaded the New French Company to accept the American commission's valuation of the franchises and property; since he came to this country and led the campaign which resulted in the rejection of the Nicaragua route and the adoption of that by way of the Panama isthmus; since, as the representative of the new Republic of Panama, he concluded with our Department of State the Hay-Bunau-Varilla treaty, on which rests the American title to occupancy of the Canal Zone and the exercise of sovereign rights therein. There is something very fine, but wholly characteristic of the man, in this sentimental devotion to an idea, and no one, we think, can regard Mr. BUNAU-VARILLA's expression of it without sincere respect.

THE SUN was for the Panama route and against the Nicaragua project, to which Congress had almost irrevocably committed itself. On December 28, 1901, in ignorance of what Mr. BUNAU-VARILLA was doing on the other side of the Atlantic, or even of the fact of his existence, we printed the subjoined appeal to the blue:

"If the representatives of the French shareholders really desire to obtain from Congress consideration of a reasonable proposition to sell out to this Government, and if they have an attractive proposition to offer, the swiftest ship that crosses the Atlantic is none too fast for their service at this time.

"Perhaps the last opportunity of Panama has already gone. Certain it is that with every week and day it is going.

"The only move that can now gain a hearing for the Panama route must be nothing short of Napoleonic in conception and execution."

The canal by the way of Panama is now a thing realized. This is a proper time to say that probably more than to any other man living the proud fact is due to the distinguished author of the letter printed elsewhere on this page. He was introduced to THE SUN by the late JOHN BIGELOW, once the American Minister to France, and to the late MARCUS ALONZO HANNA by the Hon. MYRON T. HERRICK, our present Ambassador there. Mr. BUNAU-VARILLA was the Napoleon who came out of the blue and put our canal where it is.

Chairman McCombs Revises the State Constitution.

Chairman McCombs of the Democratic National Committee is at least thorough in his advocacy of the short ballot. He would have only the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor and Comptroller elected on the State ticket, and transform the Secretary of State, Treasurer, Engineer and Surveyor and Attorney-General into appointive officers. He would make the terms of such officers as the superintendent of banking and insurance extensible with that of the Governor appointing them, and finally he says:

"I would eliminate the Senate as a factor in appointments on the ground that its participation, as experience has shown, tends to impede the process of legislation and to hamper the executive branch of the government in the performance of its functions."

By the Senate's function to pass on certain appointments of the Governor "hamper the Executive," the Executive, through the power of veto, "hamper" the legislative department; and the judicial "hamper" both. Nor is this the result of accident. It flows from the opinion held by not a few intelligent men that such "hampering"

is in the interest of the citizens, in spite of occasional inconveniences it may cause. It constitutes one of the safeguards erected by wisdom and experience to maintain a government of laws and not of men.

In the interview in which Mr. McCombs urges his radical short ballot scheme he says that:

"It is only by giving the Governor the power to pick out the administrative officers carrying out executive functions inferior to him, and who for that reason should be subordinate to the Governor, that he will be what the Constitution declares he shall be—the 'Chief Executive of the State.'"

As Mr. McCombs is undertaking a serious revision of the Constitution he may be assumed to be entirely familiar with that document. We shall be pleased to hear him inform us wherein it declares that the Governor "shall be the 'Chief Executive of the State.'"

"The God" Nemesis.

The curious inveterate myth making tendency of the human mind and the passion for apotheosis, "hero" worship and diabolization are amusingly busy just now. On the whole the German Emperor, the Kaiser, is the favorite theme of the mythologists. He is the Devil from the machine in the minds, delightfully muddled, if we may say so without offence, of some of the many American pundits who think it necessary to enlighten the world why they wish Germany to lose. It is every body's privilege to cherish whatever sympathies or antipathies he chooses. Confusing our own sympathies to the United States, we still take the liberty of saying with as much of the "beautiful objective" as is at our command, that the picture of WILLIAM II. as a universal Peacemaker, longing for blood and conquest and hurrying to slaughter a reluctant nation, is too absurd to be treated more seriously than with a guffaw. The German nation stands behind him, more united, if anything, than the North was, at least in the earlier stages of the civil war.

Then there is "the German view" and purpose, distorted almost as much as "Bismarckism," the Corsican ogre, in British caricatures of the early nineteenth century. Even so learned and venerable a man as GEORGE TREMBLE LADD, sometime professor of mental and moral philosophy at Yale, is reported to have given this modest conspectus of "the German view":

"The destruction of the British Empire, the subjugation of France, the dismemberment of Russia, the annexation of Belgium and Holland; in a word, the conquest of all Europe and perhaps America, or at any rate the southern half."

The maddest Pan-Germanism after a hundred schoppen wouldn't go so far as that. Holland and Belgium? Yes, no doubt Germany covets them.

We come now to the secure high moral ground, on which of course all parties believe themselves to stand impartially. From contemporary Professor LADD returns to ancient mythology, where he makes a surprising "find":

"The old time Greeks, who knew a thing or two about morals which we moderns would do well to remember, had a specially heinous and unpardonable crime and a god for punishment of that crime. We have no English word for that crime, but its nearest equivalent is the word 'insolence.' The god who pursued that crime to the end and never relaxed its pursuit of the criminal until he was either humiliated or punished was named Nemesis. I believe in that god, and in time he will take care of the men who hold the 'German view.'"

In our school days NEMESIS was of the feminine gender. The "crime" she was supposed to punish was good fortune and prosperity as well as arrogance and insolent boastfulness. It has not been our own observation that these are specially subject to chastisement. If they are, heaven help us Americans and every other folk!

NEMESIS, the goddess of proportion and moderation. Is she honing her sword and branding her source as she reads the proclamations of so many eager professors, including not merely the amiable New Haven psychologist but our Harvard Germanic friends, FRANK and MÜNSTERBERG, bursting with Patrioticus-paroxysms and holding culture and LUTHER, GÖTTE, WAGNER and the rest of the Pantheon trampled upon by Cossacks?

Moderation, and let the fellows in Europe do the fighting!

Financial Leadership for the Country.

So far the financial and commercial emergency which confronted the country on the outbreak of the European war has been met satisfactorily by the unorganized cooperation of banking and business interests and the Government. In the last day or so there have been indications that the situation could be best handled from now on if concerted effective action could be procured under intelligent, authoritative leadership.

Suggestions have been ventilated this week for the adoption of expedients on behalf of which emergency could be urged, but there has been little else to commend them. There are manifest difficulties to be overcome in maintaining the country's commercial and financial honor untarnished by the prompt settlement of obligations at present accruing abroad or pressing for payment in the near future. It is a question, however, if resort should be had to statutory amendment in the process of overcoming difficulty so readily as is coming to be freely proposed.

The request made to the Federal Reserve Board to consider the advisability of legislation sanctioning the use of bank notes as part of the legal reserves of the national banks inspires the reflection that the Federal Reserve Board has an excellent opportunity to assume charge of financial affairs forthwith and assert the necessary leadership in the direction of measures instituted to facilitate the customary operations of commerce and finance.

This body of men has the country's

confidence to begin with. It has been carefully selected and occupies a position of peculiar advantage in the crisis which the war abroad has thrust on the United States. If it will take the initiative there can be no doubt that it will have the hearty support of all interests in coping with the disturbed banking and business conditions of the day.

Actually the Federal Reserve Board has not much power as yet. It will acquire this only on the establishment of Federal reserve banks, but on account of the power which it is going to have it can already exercise a tremendous influence.

To all intents the Federal Reserve Board will be the governing body of a central bank. As such it will be able to manage the financial affairs of business in this country very much as such affairs are managed by central banking institutions in other countries. On this account and by way of anticipation the Federal Reserve Board could even now proceed to marshal the resources of the United States for the task of surmounting the obstacles of the European war.

Furthermore, the Federal Reserve Board, backed by official prestige at home, cannot fail to obtain foreign financial recognition as a responsible body with which to enter into negotiations and agreements. In all respects, therefore, the board seems qualified to take that leadership in behalf of the country's business concerns which circumstances require.

Artificial Scarcity of Food.

The statements that wholesalers are hoarding food products in this country and thus causing an acute rise in prices to consumers are utterly unaccountable. If it be a fact that such an operation is in progress it is nothing short of criminal and justifies the most strenuous action by State and Federal authorities all over the country.

Public opinion is sure to be aroused to bitter hostility by any such attempt to distort a situation of national difficulty to illicit private advantage.

Such a business policy is in effect the deliberate manufacture of adversity. For the honor of human nature it may be hoped that there is no very widespread enterprise of such a malignant description.

In Mexico to Date.

Just to keep the record straight, it is to be observed that as CARRANZA stands on the threshold of his conquered capital the officers and soldiers of HUERTA and CARRANJA sullenly retreat from it, carrying with them from the Federal arsenal of Mexico City "a large number of cannon, machine guns and ammunition." They are distrustful of the First Chief's promise to treat them with "constitutional justice." They are going to join FELIX DIAZ, who, it appears, has a large revolutionary following in Oaxaca.

Simultaneously news comes of a distinct clash between the First Chief and PANCHE VILLA. General ALVARADO, the Carranzist Governor at Mazatlan, and his staff have been arrested by Governor MAYTOLERA, who is VILLA's representative, and taken to Hermosillo. For contrast, General CARRANZA has held up at Tampico a large consignment of ammunition for VILLA, who, it appears, has been recruiting his army, buying supplies and urging demands that no military chief be elected provisional President, that land reforms be effected at once, that meritorious officers and men of the Federal forces be taken over into the new army of the republic, and that amnesty be granted except to the murderers of MADRID.

It does not seem as if the Dove of Peace were as yet sheltering the sister republic with outstretched pinions. But all our battleships are to come north from Vera Cruz on September 1.

In the Philistine Spirit.

Ardenly engaged in the hunt for sources of additional revenue, JOHN KNIGHT SHIELDS, a Senator of the United States from Tennessee, filled with the love of fair play, says:

"I favor an increase in the income tax, thus placing the burden on the wealth of the country, which, although receiving greater protection and benefits, has always borne, proportionately, the smallest share of its maintenance."

Senator SHIELDS uses the phrase "wealth of the country" where a less impetuous philosopher might say "the accumulations of thrift, industry and foresight," for he means not what the political economist signifies when he employs this term, but something quite different.

That the "wealth of the country" receives protection and benefits is undeniable, but what else, for the citizens, is worth protecting? That the wealth or citizenship of the country in one section receives from the national Government greater protection and benefits than that in another is nonsense, unless, for example, the farmers of New England and New York may be said to receive less protection and fewer benefits than those of the Mississippi Valley, because the Federal Government does for the latter something that the former do not need.

And "the wealth of the country" has never borne proportionately the smallest share of the cost of national maintenance, because it has borne the whole of that cost.

With a few amendments of the kind herein indicated, Senator SHIELDS's remarks might be accepted by an intelligent man as something besides pure humbug.

Spare the Teachers!

The Department of Education has been petitioned to ask the Board of Estimate for \$45,000 to pay temporary employees who are wanted to bring up to date the census of children of school age. It is a tidy sum, and experience warns that "temporary" employees are likely to become permanent. Some less expensive method should be devised for gathering the desired data, but the

work of counting the children should not be put on the school teachers.

The teachers have all that they ought to do. Their classroom work is hard and exacting. They have a great deal of clerical labor of which the public thinks little. They have home work that occupies their time. If they are worth their salt—and most of them are—they voluntarily assume responsibilities to their pupils that add materially to their burden. Even if the hours they spend in the classrooms measured—as they do not—all they gave to the city that employs them, it would be unjust to impose on them new tasks, to many of them undoubtedly ungenial, and to all exhausting.

The State census will be taken in May and June next. Cannot the school authorities wait for it and spare the teachers and the taxpayers?

The originator of the submarine dies most inopportunist. A few weeks, perhaps a few days more, and he might have known whether he had virtually ended war at sea.

The prohibition of the horn and bell as advertisements of articles for sale is all very well in its way. But if we are fighting noise why don't we do something to the chauffeur who starts his engine in the silent hours of the night with a detonation which wakes people up for a block or two under the impression that a gunman has been busy in the neighborhood?

The argument against woman suffrage is much weakened by the number of men who refuse to participate in their political duties. *The Hon. Jos. Hepburn.*

Ah, woman-taming McCombs! The argument against total abstinence is much weakened by the number of men who don't drink.

It looks as if a small group of New Orleans suffragists were determined to demonstrate that public agitation had a bad effect on women, depriving them of the graceful and charming courtesy which are generally prized as among the best gifts of their sex. The action of this coterie regarding the death of the President's wife is certainly a scandal to the cause they advocate.

The picture which Mr. H. S. DUBLEY, vice-president of the River Plate Trading Company, gives of conditions in South America shows that circumstances have combined in a miraculous manner to create a trade opportunity for Americans. Owing to the recent general depression, and the immediate need of replenishment in all manufactured articles, there is no need for us to create a market. It is there, beckoning to us. Mr. DUBLEY gives the best possible advice as to the spirit in which we should go about making our new field a permanent one. Above all, the injunction to give all possible consideration to the buyer's way of doing business is sound. It is by giving what they want in their own way and on their own terms that Europe has gained the confidence of the South American people and vastly profited thereby.

Did the Paris hippophagists find the steaks and chops of Mr. WIDENSKY's "bloody" steaks more succulent than cuts from plebeian plucks? A good fat comfortable family horse would seem the better eating than the lean swift patrician.

The ubiquity of the Kaiser in the present crisis seems to be equal to that of Richmond on Bowditch Field when King RUDOLPH III. scornfully demanded a horse to battle with the sixth of him. The cable despatches of the last few days have located WILLIAM II. at Liège, as hurrying to Liège on a train, as speeding in an automobile to Colmar and as being in command of 500,000 men at Colmar. Finally they found him in the Palace garden at Berlin talking to Ambassador GRAMM.

Why is any one allowed to use the public streets to insult a large section of the public? How is the right of free speech involved in any way in the question of free misuse of the streets? The streets were never intended as arenas for wild orators, and when a venomous person mounts on his soap box to attack all religion and one form of religion in particular he is adding outrage to simple abuse. It is time to call a halt in the entire matter of street speaking.

In its common form as practised all over the city every evening now—when it can do so and to any purpose, it gathers more or less disorderly crowds and gives pickpockets and roughs their opportunity. It is a nuisance.

When the war taxes are imposed will beer and tobacco become not a "luxury" but a new duty? Dr. PEASE, please!

Notice to Publishers.

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German Socialists Back the Kaiser.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Ever since the European war began exceptions have been made in the German press. Austrian Americans to what they called unfair criticism of the German Emperor, German politics and diplomacy in American papers printed in the English language. It was loudly asserted that the Emperor alone was responsible for everything and all the other nations are entirely blameless in causing the fight between highly civilized nations. Owing to the inability of getting foreign, that is to say German, mail and cable despatches direct from Berlin, it is a physical impossibility to hear the German side of the question, but all were old enough to judge the facts, as for instance, that the Socialist party in Germany stands true to Emperor and Empire.

For the first time in the history of the German Empire did the members of the Socialist party attend the opening of the Reichstag in the Emperor's castle at Berlin after the declaration of war, and for the first time in the history of the Socialist party did that body support the Emperor.

This is positive proof that Germany is fighting now for a just cause. If there would have been any flaw, if justice would not have been wholly on Germany's side, the German Socialist would never have been so ready to support a war, and never would have taken the Kaiser's part in the Reichstag. It is against their principles, against their ideals, and thus much as they present a very high percentage of the German intelligent population, it goes without saying that their rally around the Emperor and the empire makes the German American firm in the belief that in spite of the adverse criticism in American papers the Kaiser must have acted right in breaking the peace, much to his dislike and that of every cultured man and nation.

NEW YORK, AUGUST 12.

PEACE'S GREATEST VICTORY.

Bunau-Varilla Describes the Event for Which He Waited Thirty Years.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Yesterday was a day of glory!

I have sailed across the continental divide on the first ocean steamer, the Cristobal, which crossed the Isthmus of Panama from the waters of the Atlantic to the waters of the Pacific.

It was not the inaugural trip, which is to take place on the fifteenth, and for that reason the ship did not go through the channel from Balboa harbor to the deep water of the Pacific.

But for the engineer, if not for the authorities and for the public, it was indeed the ringing of the bell which announced that the dream of ages had become a fact. And this bell has rung in the first year of the fifth century since the discovery of the Pacific!

It was a day of glory also for the American nation which generously gives this great waterway to the world without any special privilege for herself or her citizens and without any mercenary consideration in view.

It was a day of glory for the great engineer, Colonel Goethals, who carried to successful issue the stupendous enterprise.

It was a day of glory also for the Genius of the French nation, which first attacked the great task, which discovered all the technical solutions of a problem hitherto considered as impossible of realization.

In spite of the yellow fever, in spite of all the obstacles then in the way, accumulated by Nature and Man, it would have been easy for the French to open their canal in 1891 had not the money been wanting in 1888. If the canal had been in the hands of a Government with unlimited financial resources, instead of being in those of a private corporation, the credit of which became extinct in 1888, the Panama Canal would have been a fact twenty-two years ago.

Yesterday was therefore a day of glory for the French Genius because it was the day of the vindication of the aim for which it has so long and so stubbornly fought. It was a day of glory for Ferdinand de Lesseps and for his noble and generous son Charles de Lesseps, who was the real head of the old company and who can alone witness the long hoped for day of victory.

I had yesterday the supreme joy of seeing this glorious vindication when months ago separately from the thirtieth anniversary of my departure from France for the service of this great conception.

But with this supreme joy was mixed yesterday another sentiment.

As an echo to the cheers saluting the victory of Man over the American Cordillera I thought I heard the distant rattle of the French mitrailleuses defending the holy soil of the Fatherland against the German aggressors.

On the same day when was ended the great war initiated by the French Genius against Nature for the benefit of Mankind, another great war was begun, the war against the intolerable German military arrogance and autocracy.

And the day that war began I was not in France to do my duty! I was in Panama.

Since the beginning of my official connection with the Panama Canal it has caused me an unceasing series of moral hardships, sufferings and trials.

Never was the trial so cruel, never was the tribute paid by me to the great enterprise so costly, as on the very day of the final triumph.

On that day, which I have been awaiting for thirty years, I was separated by five thousand miles from my place of duty in France. I have been expecting for forty-four years to fulfil that duty, and the service of the Panama Canal has prevented me from fulfilling it on the day of call.

What a tragic coincidence, but also what a symbol of hope!

What an auspicious and happy fact, the beginning of that war for the vindication of the dignity and power of France on the very day her Genius receives the most complete vindication, thanks to the magnificent performance of her historical friend, the United States of America.

On my return to Panama, after passing through the canal, my grief was alleviated by a cablegram: My son and my son-in-law gone to the front! If I am not there to take my share of the peril, they will do both their duty and mine, while I am hastening to their side.

Yes, indeed, it was a day of glory!

PHILIPPE BUNAU-VARILLA.

COLON, AUGUST 4, 1914.

THE GREEN EYED MONSTER.

Jealousy of Nations and Clean Lives of the Germans.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The cause for the present upheaval in Europe can be named in one word, jealousy! There is no great world Power above that feeling toward the German Empire. Only Germany's envy after my return from a trip through the principal European countries and the culmination of this jealousy hatred.

My admiration for the Germans and their fine country is unbounded; they were with no exceptions the cleanest, most progressive people we met with anywhere. Their method is to begin with the children and then the men, and an eye for an eye. In Stuttgart we saw the handiwork of school children, from the age of 10 to 15 years, in any and every branch of trade one could mention; it was wonderful. If any other country could match it, I shall always marvel at the exquisite cleanliness and sense of order that prevailed everywhere.

We visited Hamburg, Berlin, Dresden, Nuremberg, Stuttgart, Heidelberg, Bonn and Cologne, seeing quite a little of the people and always to their credit. The people who can cause green grass to grow throughout their fine forests, with never a pine needle, broken twig or bit of litter to be seen on the lovely green carpet, are people fit to survive.

ALICE C. MARION.

ANNAPOLIS, N. J., AUGUST 13.

Lincoln as Tavern Keeper.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I have read somewhere that Abraham Lincoln at one time in his career kept a tavern. I think this tavern was located in the State of Illinois.

Will you kindly advise me if this is a fact, and if so, where a copy of the license and bond may be obtained if they are still in existence?

NEW YORK, AUGUST 12.

KANSAS BLEDDES AGAIN.

Even the Direct Primary System Produces Imperfect Results.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Kansas has just passed through another primary farce, this time with the non-political judiciary attached, and the people are now more disgusted than ever.

This is the first time that the women have taken part in a Statewide primary, and with few exceptions they are as thoroughly disgusted as the men are with it.

Never before have the people had so good an opportunity to see the working of this primary in its true light as at this time, especially as regards the non-political judiciary.

In one county one of the judicial nominees for District Judge is a bookkeeper, who never saw the inside of a law book, yet he defeated two able attorneys for the nomination because he was a "nice fellow."

There were twelve candidates for Supreme Judges—three to be chosen—and the result is that some of the ablest attorneys in the State were defeated, including one of the best known names in the State, and under the old system of selecting Judges of the Supreme Court none but the ablest attorneys have ever been nominated or elected.

Parties were responsible for the men named and would not put up weak men. Now no one is responsible, and it shows on its face what the result will be—a court composed of anybody and everything.

In Kansas the primary has not only put a great expense upon the taxpayers, but it has eliminated the man of moderate means from holding a State office, while it has destroyed the Judiciary and disgraced the name of justice.

LEM A. WOODS.

CHANUTE, KAN., AUGUST 10.

MR. HINMAN'S STATEMENT.

The Views of a Republican Who Swears by Job Hedges.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I am always a Republican, and shall continue to be a Republican. * * * I am against the terms of the moment. * * *

This is fine talk, but being practical and remembering that "actions speak louder than words," I would like to know how Mr. Hinman squares his talk with his being a candidate for the Progressive nomination for Governor. It is to be remembered that if Mr. Hinman runs for the nomination for Governor in both the Republican and Progressive primaries, is beaten in the Republican and elected in the Progressive primaries, under the primary law he cannot disavow his Progressive nomination but must oppose his successful Republican antagonist at the polls.

I am looking for a candidate to vote for in the Republican primaries who not only says he is a Republican but actually is all the "isms" of the hour. This includes "Rooseveltism" as the worst of the lot. I find Hinman willing to be the Roosevelt candidate. It brings him in vote. I find Whitman has tried to be enough with Roosevelt to get his support. This leaves only Hedges, who on his record has always been a Republican, to vote against Rooseveltism. The record he will get my vote at the primaries.

Republicans, and by that I mean those who were loyal to the party in 1912, should all vote for Hedges, who led the fight two years ago, and give him the nomination this year, when we shall surely win. LINCOLN DORY BROWN.

NEW YORK, AUGUST 13.

MR. BARNES AND MR. ROOSEVELT.

Does Distance Lend Enchantment to the Latter's 'Charges'?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I read with amusement the news in THE SUN concerning Mr. Roosevelt's objection to the trial of Mr. Barnes's suit in Albany county. Mr. Roosevelt is getting his excuses ready, and he is not a little excited.

Up to the time this suit was brought he hurled his base charges at Mr. Barnes with so much noise that proof or corroboration seemed superfluous. He has come to be in doubt as to his acceptance in a county where Mr. Barnes is really known.

"Sagacious Mr. Roosevelt! Did he not make the loudest noise about 'Pony' in Vermont? What did he say about Mr. Taft in Massachusetts? Aldrich was the culprit when the 'great accused' was in the West."

I do not blame Mr. Roosevelt. Distance from the domicile of the accused is really his greatest evidence.